

Westgate Church of Christ

Welcome Members and Guests



Easter Egg Hunt Tonight

The Annual Westgate Easter Egg Hunt is **tonight at 5:30 p.m.** at the Abilene Festival Gardens across from the zoo. Bring a brown bag dinner and if you want to bring a dessert to share, you can, but don't feel obligated. **All are welcome** and encouraged to come for the fellowship time and watch the children enjoy hunting for eggs.

Flowering of the Cross

For Easter Sunday we will participate in the Flowering of the Cross tradition. It is a beautiful way to illustrate Christ's (and our) move from death to life. It is a living example of how God can bring beauty out of brokenness and abundant life out of bareness. We will have flowers here to place on the cross, but all are encouraged to bring flowers that are meaningful to them.



Brisket Burn & Silent Auction

Sunday, April 24th is our annual Brisket Burn and Silent Auction. This event helps send our youth group students to summer camp. During camp these students serve special needs campers, are challenged to do new things, and are encouraged to work together. During these experiences, they grow in knowledge of Christ's love and teachings. Join us for a brisket lunch with all the fixings and a fun and friendly auction. More details will be in the bulletin next week, but mark your calendars and plan to attend this event after worship services in two weeks. Invite your family and friends as well!

Sermon Title: Ruining a Good Thing

Scripture: Matthew 23: 1-12

Then Jesus said to the crowds and to his disciples: "The teachers of the law and the Pharisees sit in Moses' seat. So you must be careful to do everything they tell you. But do not do what they do, for they do not practice what they preach. They tie up heavy, cumbersome loads and put them on other people's shoulders, but they themselves are not willing to lift a finger to move them.

"Everything they do is done for people to see: They make their phylacteries wide and the tassels on their garments long; they love the place of honor at banquets and the most important seats in the synagogues; they love to be greeted with respect in the marketplaces and to be called 'Rabbi' by others.

"But you are not to be called 'Rabbi,' for you have one Teacher, and you are all brothers. And do not call anyone on earth 'father,' for you have one Father, and he is in heaven. Nor are you to be called instructors, for you have one Instructor, the Messiah. The greatest among you will be your servant. For those who exalt themselves will be humbled, and those who humble themselves will be exalted."

Prayer Concerns

~Continued prayers for **Eric Robinson**.

~Please remember **Lydia Lyon** in your prayers. She was released from the hospital and is at home. She has a long recovery ahead of her after surgery on her knee and hip following a car accident.

~Remember **Josh and Caroline Wright** in your prayers. They are expecting a baby this month!

~Continued prayers for **Janice Hill** and her battle with acute colitis.

~**Nell Hopper's** brother-in-law Glenn Kemp is fighting cancer and could use our prayers.

~Continue to keep Jan Jordan, sister of **Linda Jones**, in your prayers. Jan is battling cancer.

~Logan Cornutt, 18-year-old grandson of **Jackie Lee**, has brain cancer. Please remember him in your prayers.

~**Ashley Simon's** dad has a progressive lung disease and could use our prayers.

~Keep **Crystal Collier** in your prayers as she figures out next steps after her devastating house fire.

~Ervel Quinn, son-in-law of **Peggy Allen**, has cancer and needs our prayers.

~Please pray for Natalia Maluga and her family. She worked closely with **Doug Reeves** at the Sunset International Bible Institute in Ukraine. Natalia escaped Ukraine and is staying in Sopot in Northern Poland. Her husband is still in Kyiv.

Those unable to join us:

- ~Laverne Horn
- ~Ethel Gumm
- ~Pat Suba

Ongoing prayer concerns:

- ~Peggy Allen
- ~Deana Frazier
- ~Bill Jackson
- ~Nell Hopper
- ~Dwight Painter
- ~Lue Gray
- ~Chester Lynd
- ~Melody Loveland
- ~Bradi Williams
- ~Steve Henderson
- ~Donna Scott
- ~Steve Smith
- ~Patsy Williamson
- ~Jim and Joyce Waddell
- ~Mickey Walker

Missionaries:

- ~Doug & Marge Reeves- Sunset International Bible Institute, Lubbock, TX

Expectant Parents:

- Josh and Caroline Wright – April

Upcoming Bridal Showers

May 1st: Lauren Gumm
May 15th: Kelsey Sanders (bride-elect of Noah Pruitt)
June 5th: Stefani Stovall
June 12th: Paige MacDonald



Westgate Golf Tournament

The Westgate Golf Tournament has been scheduled for **Saturday, April 30th, at 10:00 a.m.** at Twisted Oaks in Hawley. The cost is yet to be determined, but will not be more than \$35/person. It is a 4-person scramble, and you must have your own set of golf clubs (golf course rule). Please sign up if you haven't already and include your average score. If you signed up previously but cannot make it, let Matt Waldrip know. See Matt with any questions.

Spring Cleaning—by Brady Horner

I moved towns a lot as a kid. So, now I have lived in Abilene, and in my current house, longer than I've lived anywhere in my life. The end of this month will be 10 years! Unfortunately, living in the same place that long, without moving, makes you accumulate some junk! Last week we started clearing things out, or better a full purge of a lot of stuff. I'm looking forward to having more space, but it's a painful process! I see now why the only time I ever really did anything like this was when I was essentially forced to during moves.

Digging through sheds, drawers, and closets sometimes means facing shame, mistakes, and reality. "I shouldn't have bought that tool, I only used it once! I must admit, I'll never fit into those pants, it's time to give them up. I must come to terms that I won't learn to play that instrument or do that devo book study. How many mementos do I really need?" Letting stuff go is difficult because there are emotional attachments to the past, and it requires admitting reality about the future.

Fortunately, as we clean these things out, we create space. Space for new dreams, new goals, and new memories to be created. We also realize, we had a lot of cool stuff we forgot we had that we can enjoy again! A purge like this is often necessary because it pushes us forward. Sometimes we need to do a mental and spiritual "spring cleaning". What "items" in your thought life do you need to mentally get rid of? Maybe it's a grudge or an offense that still bothers you, a life curveball that you just need to accept, or a dream that just needs to be adapted. Once we accept the reality of our situation, drop the battles we need to quit fighting, and embrace the challenges worth taking on, we begin healing and moving toward a brighter future. This purge is a tough process, but it is much needed in many of our lives, and is a powerful place for God to work.

Display Shower
Your thoughtful gift will be put on display so there's no need to wrap it in any way. A simple ribbon or bow will do just fine leaving us free to visit and dine.



*Cathrine Clements Janice Hill Briana Horner Holly Howell
Kelly MacDonald Christite Pruitt Juanita Stovall Misty Tom Angie Wier*

Happy Birthday:

Apr. 11th: Bryce Bell,
Lainey Schumpert
Apr. 12th: Titus Powell,
Jennifer Lee

Happy Anniversary:

Apr. 14th:
Thom & Angie Wier

Our Calendar:

Apr. 10th: Easter Egg Hunt at
Festival Gardens **5:30 p.m.**

Apr. 15th: Good Friday

Apr. 17th: Easter Sunday

Apr. 20th: Meal before Bible
Class **5:45 p.m.**

Apr. 24th:
Brisket Burn/Youth Auction

May 1st: Bridal Shower for
Lauren Gumm **2:00 p.m.**

May 8th: Mother's Day

May 15th: Bridal Shower for
Kelsey Sanders, bride-elect
of Noah Pruitt **2:00 p.m.**

May 22nd:
Graduation Celebration

May 30th: Memorial Day

June 5th: Bridal Shower for
Stefani Stovall **2:00 p.m.**

June 12th: Bridal Shower for
Paige MacDonald **2:00 p.m.**



Summary verse: "He comforts us in all our troubles so that we can comfort others. When they are troubled, we will be able to give them the same comfort God has given us." (2 Corinthians 1:4)

In April, as the school year winds down, please continue to pray for



Children's Ministry News

In 1 Kings 19:1-18, we read that Elijah is tired. He feels defeated, scared, and alone. But God gives him rest, food, and then speaks to him in a gentle whisper, addressing Elijah's concerns. God is comforting, and He helps Elijah see that he's not going to lose, he has nothing to fear, and he's not alone. Elijah is comforted by God, and we can look for ways to give comfort to others.



Westgate educators. Psalm 32:8: "I will instruct you and teach you in the way you should go, I will counsel you with my loving eye on you."

Youth parents, please mark your calendar: Field Day VBS, *Growing Strong in God's Truths*, on **June 18th, 10 a.m. – noon**. Youth will be assisting, and their help is appreciated.

Classes on Wednesday PM review the lesson from Sunday morning emphasizing basic Bible knowledge with applications to daily life. In the month of April, children will be learning about the many facets of praising God. Plan to join the fun on Wednesday at 6:45.



Youth Ministry News

Join us on **Sundays at 9 a.m.** and **Wednesdays at 6:45 p.m.** for class.

Be thinking of a product or service you can provide for the Youth Auction on **Sunday, April 24th**. We will be assigning you specific roles to help out with soon. Come ready to work!

All Auction items will be due next week, on **Sunday, April 17th**.

Come with us this summer to Pine Springs! The cost is \$125. A \$25 deposit for camp is due **today**.

Please pray for our students as they work hard this semester!

Ask Layla, Dylan, or Caleb how to play Amoeba Tag!

Services at Westgate: Sundays—Bible Class **9:00 a.m.**, Worship **10:00 a.m.**
Wednesdays—Bible Class **6:45 p.m.**

Church office: (325)692-2300
westgatecofc@gmail.com

Offering

April 3rd:
Contribution: \$2,455.00
eGive: \$3,356.00
Total: \$5,811.00
Budget: **\$6,341.00**
Be A Blessing: \$27.82

Lead Minister: Brady Horner (325-260-1903) **email:** pbhorner@gmail.com

Youth Minister: Clay Howell (615-879-0983)

email: sch16a@acu.edu

Children's Education Coordinator: Jackie Lee (325-518-4767)

email: lee-jacqueline@sbcglobal.net

Elders: Randy Bibb, Jim MacDonald, Steve Stovall, **Troy Tom**

Deacons: Don Bell, Manny Carneiro, **CJ Chaney**, Jon Cogburn,
Eric Gumm, Adam Lott, Chris Meeks, Matt Waldrip

Nursery Duty:

Jackie Lee

Building Lock-up:

April: CJ Chaney

May: Jon Cogburn